

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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O P 011900Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4238
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 0943

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JM, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON'S RESPONSE TO NEWSWEEK
MAGAZINE ARTICLE

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 893

1. REFTEL REPORTED FONMIN PATTERSON'S PREPARED STATEMENT
REFUTING VARIOUS ALLEGATIONS BY JOURNALIST ARNAUD DE
BORCHGRAVE IN THE FEBRUARY 28 EDITION OF NEWSWEEK. BASIC
THRUST OF PATTERSON'S STATEMENT WAS THAT THE ARTICLE CON-
TAINED A WIDE RANGE OF "PALPABLE LIES, INNUMERABLE HALF-
TRUTHS AND COUNTLESS PRE-CONCEPTIONS". WHILE IT IS TRUE
THERE WERE SOME FACTUAL ERRORS IN THE DE BORCHGRAVE STORY,
THE BASIC STORY LINE IS ACCURATE INSOFAR AS WE ARE ABLE TO
JUDGE THE SITUATION. MOREOVER MANY OF PATTERSON'S REFUTA-
TIONS ARE THEMSELVES HALF-TRUTHS OR BLATANT DISTORTIONS OF
FACT. ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE FOREGOING ARE THE
FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON SEVERAL OF PATTERSON'S STATEMENTS.

2. PATTERSON SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD NOT
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FIRED ANYBODY FROM SPECIAL BRANCH. THIS IS TECHNICALLY
ACCURATE. MANLEY HAS FORCED INTO EARLY RETIREMENT A
NUMBER OF SPECIAL BRANCH OFFICERS WHO WERE NOT PREPARED
TO COOPERATE WITH THE CUBANS OR WHO WERE OPPOSED TO
THE POLITICALIZATION OF THE SPECIAL BRANCH.

3. PATTERSON SAID THAT CUBAN AIRLINES DO NOT SHUTTLE

IN AND OUT AT ALL HOURS LOADING AND UNLOADING CRATES AND PEOPLE WITH NO QUESTIONS ASKED AND NO RECORDS KEPT. AIR CUBANA IN FACT HAS DONE PRECISELY THAT OFF AND ON FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

4. PATTERSON DENIED DE BORCHGRAVE'S ALLEGATION THAT SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS AND PNP AIDES HAD ORGANIZED PHILIP AGEE'S VISIT TO JAMAICA. THIS STATEMENT IS A HALF-TRUTH. THE GOJ OFFICIALS MOST DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE HANDLING OF AGEE'S VISIT WERE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES AND/OR PNP OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF THE AGEE VISIT. THE KEY ACTORS, HUGH SMALL, ARNOLD BERTAM AND D.K. DUNCAN, HAVE ALL BEEN APPOINTED MINISTERS SINCE THE DECEMBER 15 ELECTIONS.

5. PATTERSON IS RIGHT IN STATING THERE WAS NO REPORT OF RAPE DURING THE REMA INCIDENT. BUT THERE CERTAINLY WERE REPORTS OF MURDER AND OTHER LESSER FORMS OF VIOLENCE.

6. PATTERSON DENIED DE BORCHGRAVE'S ALLEGATION THAT MANLEY IS ORGANIZING A 20,000 MEMBER PEOPLE'S MILITIA TO "STAND UP TO THE ARMY". WE DON'T KNOW THE PROJECTED SIZE OF THE HOME GUARD NOW BEING ORGANIZED BY THE MANLEY GOVERNMENT, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT IT IS INTENDED TO SERVE AS A PEOPLE'S MILITIA WHICH WILL ASSUME, ALONG WITH POLITICALLY RELIABLE UNITS OF THE POLICE, THE SECURITY FUNCTIONS OF THE ARMY. NO LESS AN AUTHORITY THAN THE PRIME MINISTER'S PARLIAMENTARY

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SECRETARY FOR HOME GUARD AFFAIRS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THIS DECISION SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. HE SAID THAT THE ARMY IN THE FUTURE WOULD NO LONGER SERVE A SECURITY FUNCTION BUT WOULD BE TURNED OUT TO BUILD BRIDGES, ROADS, ETC.

7. PATTERSON SAID "THERE IS NO SPLIT IN THE PNP BETWEEN MODERATE AND PRO-CUBAN HARD-LINERS". PATTERSON MUST BE JUST ABOUT THE ONLY JAMAICAN ON THE ISLAND WHO IS UNAWARE OF THIS SPLIT.

8. WE SEE NO REASON TO GET INTO THE BUSINESS OF DEFENDING IN MEETINGS WITH GOJ OFFICIALS DE BORCHGRAVE'S ALLEGATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND PATTERSON AND OTHER GOJ OFFICIALS ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ABOUT THOSE ALLEGATIONS AND UNDOUBTEDLY WILL OFFER REFUTATIONS ALONG THE LINES OF REFTEL IN CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON, NEW YORK, AND ELSEWHERE. THE ABOVE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF DISTORTED REFUTATIONS ARE REPORTED SO AS TO ASSURE

THOSE CONCERNED WILL RECEIVE HIS REMARKS WITH A SUB-
STANTIAL GRAIN OF SALT.
GERARD

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Message Attributes

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Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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